Columbia and Snake River Mainstem TMDL[1] Fact Sheet
April 7, 2001

Purpose:
The purpose of the Columbia and Snake River Mainstem TMDL is to understand the sources of total dissolved gas and temperature loadings and to allocate those loadings to meet state and tribal water quality standards. This is a task that will require careful coordination, cooperation, and management by all parties involved in this effort.

The complexity of the governance system is profound, involving Federal agencies, state agencies, Tribes, private entities, and Public Utility Districts. No single agency or Tribe can assert its jurisdiction and achieve a successful outcome. For example, total dissolved gas travels across international borders, through tribal and state jurisdictions, and is increased by passage over Federal, PUD, and private dams. Its one commonality is that it is harmful to fish and aquatic life at certain percentages of saturation. Temperature exceedances are perhaps even more complex in assessing causes and solutions.

Scope:
The geographic scope of the TMDL includes the Mainstem Snake River from river mile (RM) 188 to its confluence with the Columbia River. A joint Oregon-Idaho TMDL for Snake River-Hells Canyon extending from RM 409 at about Adrian, Oregon to RM 188 immediately above the Salmon River inflow, will be a stand-alone effort, but will be coordinated with and complementary of the downstream effort. For the Mainstem Columbia River, the TMDL will reach from the Canadian Border to the Astoria Bridge.

The pollutants to be addressed are total dissolved gas and temperature. TMDLs for pollutants other than total dissolved gas and temperature that are 303(d) listed, are beyond the scope of this TMDL.

The purpose of the Mainstem TMDL is to understand the contribution of dams, tributaries and other sources of total dissolved gas and temperature, and to determine the load reductions necessary to ensure that water quality standards will be met.

Vision and Final Products:
- An equitable allocation of pollutant reductions that accurately reflects relative contribution, and favors no one state, Tribe, or dam operator.
- A TMDL that informs decision-makers as to the real causes of the water quality standards violations and the resultant loadings required to attain water quality standards and that has public participation.
- A TMDL that recognizes and complements the other work in habitat and hydropower.
- A TMDL that is approvable, withstands appeal, and meets the requirements of the Clean Water Act and state TMDL legal settlements and decisions.
- A TMDL that has the support of the participants (i.e., no surprises)
- A TMDL that promotes real improvements in water quality and meets water quality standards.

[1] A final agreement has not been completed with the State of Washington as of January 18, 2001. Therefore this fact sheet represents expectations only for EPA and the states of Idaho and Oregon.

· A cooperative venture which recognizes the expertise, jurisdiction, authorities, and efforts of all participants.

TMDL Partners:
· US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
· Washington DOE
· Oregon DEQ
· Idaho DEQ
· Colville Tribe
· Spokane Tribe

Requested to Participate in Implementation:
· Columbia Basin Tribes[2]
· PUDs:
  - Grant County PUD
  - Douglas County PUD
  - Chelan County PUD
  - Seattle City Light
  - Avista
  - Pend Orielle PUD
· Columbia Power
· BC Hydro
· Idaho Power
· Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)
· US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
· US Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR)
· US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
· US National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)

Coordinate with:
· FERC

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[2] Burns Paiute Tribe of the Burns Paiute Indian Colony of Oregon
Coeur d'Alene Tribe of the Coeur D'Alene Reservation, Idaho
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, Montana
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Washington
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Oregon
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Washington
Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation, Washington
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation of Idaho
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, Nevada
Spokane Tribe of the Spokane Reservation, Washington

- Point Source dischargers
- Others agencies as necessary

Conceptual Approach:
EPA will:

- Develop the technical basis for the TMDL for temperature for the Snake/Columbia Mainstem using the CRBM 10 Model developed by EPA region 10..

Each State is expected to produce:

- The TMDL for total dissolved gas for their waters in cooperation with the dam operators within their boundaries. EPA will work with the Colville Tribe, and the Spokane Tribes for the portion of the dissolved gas TMDL within Reservation boundaries. Oregon DEQ and Washington DOE will collaborate on the total dissolved gas TMDL for the interstate portions of the Columbia River.

EPA will participate in the states' total dissolved gas TMDLs for consistency of approach assistance in coordinating a system wide approach to realize water quality benefits, assistance with Federal project implementation, approvability of the final product, and will assist in securing the cooperation of applicable Federal agencies. The States and Tribes are encouraged to engage Federal, private, and PUD dam operators in their TMDL development process.

The Federal Action Agencies (USBOR, USACE, and BPA) will be asked to provide data, technical/financial assistance and general support for the state and EPA efforts, The Federal Action Agencies have resources and expertise essential to the success of this effort. Interested and affected Tribes are invited to participate and lend their expertise to the effort. EPA will coordinate tribal involvement. EPA will provide the leadership with the states and Tribes to collaborate and cooperate on mainstem TMDL public involvement.

Possible implementation mechanisms that could be used to achieve the allocations in the TMDL include changes in the construction or operation at dams, FERC licenses, Biological Opinions, NPDES permits, consent decrees, water quality standards, habitat conservation plans, or other agreements. Where Congressional appropriations are required, Action agencies will be expected to seek funding in good faith.

Although, not a part of the TMDL, EPA will work with Washington DOE regarding the Canadian water use planning and hydropower licensing process to seek a mechanism to incorporate United States and Tribal water quality standards in Canadian licenses so that those standards are met at the United States/Canadian border.

Roles of Partners:
EPA:

- Technical lead for temperature TMDL
- Connect work to the Snake River-Hells Canyon TMDL. Coordinate total dissolved gas TMDLs.
- Coordinate Tribal participation
- Coordinate Federal participation.

- Exercise Trust responsibility to the Columbia River Tribes by inviting their participation, seeking their advice and expertise, and keeping them informed on critical issues related to TMDL development.
- Coordinate development of the total dissolved gas TMDLs for the Clearwater River by the State of Idaho, EPA, and Nez Perce Tribe.
- Coordinate development of the total dissolved gas TMDL for the Upper Columbia River within the boundaries of the Colville and Spokane reservations.
- Connect work to the Clearwater River TMDL.
- Lead on a single public involvement effort.
- Coordinate with Provincial Federal government of Canada, Washington DOE, and the Tribes on addressing total dissolved gas standards at the US/Canadian border.

A critical role of EPA will be to ensure coordination of the entire TMDL development effort between all involved parties.

Expected Roles of State Partners:

Oregon DEQ:

- Co-lead for Snake interstate waters with Idaho DEQ.
- Co-lead on Mainstem Columbia total dissolved gas TMDL with Washington DOE.
- Participate in EPA's temperature TMDL technical efforts.
- Participate in public involvement efforts.

Idaho DEQ:

- Co-lead for Snake interstate waters with Oregon DEQ.
- Engage Idaho Power Company.
- Participate in EPA's temperature TMDL technical efforts.
- Participate in public involvement efforts.

Washington DOE:

- Lead for total dissolved gas TMDLs within state boundaries.
- Co-lead on Mainstem Columbia total dissolved gas TMDL with Oregon DEQ.
- Participate in EPA's temperature TMDL technical efforts.
- Engage PUDs in the TMDL development process.
- Participate in public involvement efforts.

Columbia River Tribes:

- Work with EPA and the states to prepare TMDLS and coordinate and consult on decisions.

Expected Roles of Cooperating Agencies and Tribal Governments:

- Federal Action Agencies (USACE, BOR, BPA): Provide data and information, financial/technical assistance, models, modeling, and general support.
- PUDs/Private Dams: Provide data and information, technical/financial assistance; assist in TMDL development and implementation.
- FERC: Condition future licenses to be consistent with any 401 certification requirements which include conditions necessary to achieve the allocations in the TMDL.
- NMFS: Assist in resolution of temperature and total dissolved gas issues.
- FWS: Assist in resolution of temperature and total dissolved gas issues.
- Columbia Basin Tribes: Participate in government-to-government coordination and

consultation to provide their views and perspectives and lend their expertise to the effort.

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